

Remarks

Claims 18-97 are pending in the subject application. By this Supplemental Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 18-30, 44-49, and 64-97. These amendments are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.116(b)(1) governing responses to after-final Actions. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 31-43 and 50-63 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication in the Advisory Action dated July 28, 2005 that claims 31-43 and 50-63 are allowable. There are no outstanding rejections or objections to claims 31-43 and 50-63.

The amendments presented herein have canceled withdrawn method claims 64-97, for which Applicant had sought rejoinder in the subject application. Rejoinder was denied in the July 28 Advisory Action on the grounds that further consideration would be required "for non-prior art issues (double patenting) regarding the withdrawn method claims." Applicant respectfully asserts that the withdrawn method claims should have been rejoined in the subject application pursuant to MPEP §821.04 and any objection or rejection of the rejoinder claims made of record in the Advisory Action; however, this issue is moot in view of Applicant's cancellation of the withdrawn method claims by this Amendment. Also canceled by this Amendment are rejected claims 18-30 and 44-49. Thus, the only claims remaining in the application are claims 31-43 and 50-63, which as noted above, the Examiner has indicated as allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the subject application is in condition for allowance.

It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicant's agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicant believes that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

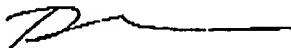
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

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Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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